है यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और इस पर जन-सामान्य की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है तथा इसका बैंकों के कारोबार पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा ;

(ख) क्या सरकार धोखाधड़ी और भ्रष्टाचार को रोकने के लिए सभी बैंक खाताधारकों के लिए छायाचित्र को अनिवार्य बनाने के लिए कदम उठाएगी ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(घ) यदि नहीं तो, उसके क्या कारण है ?

**वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० अबरार अहमद)** : (क) से (घ) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने बैंकों से कहा है कि वे नए खाते के मामले में दिनांक 1 जनवरी, 1994 से खाता खोलने के समय खाता परिचालित करने के लिए प्राधिकृत जमाकर्ताओं/खाताधारकों के फोटोग्राफ प्राप्त करें। उपर्युक्त अनुदेश अनिवार्य हैं और इनका कार्यान्वयन सभी बैंकों द्वारा किया जाना है।

बैंकों में धोखाधड़ियों और कदाचारों की जांच करने के लिए भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा एक उच्च स्तरीय समिति (भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के तत्कालीन उप-गवर्नर श्री ए० घोष की अध्यक्षता में) का गठन किया गया था। इस समिति ने सिफारिश की थी कि परिचालन खाते खोलने के समय जमाकर्ताओं के फोटोग्राफ प्राप्त करने की प्रथा शुरू की जानी चाहिए। यह सिफारिश स्वीकार कर ली गई थी और भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा बैंकों को तदनुसार सूचित कर दिया गया है।

प्रेस रिपोर्टों से पता चला है कि अखिल भारतीय बैंक जमाकर्ता संघ (ए० आई० बी० डी० ए०) ने इस निर्णय का स्वागत किया है। देश में बैंकिंग व्यवसाय पर इस उपाय के संभावित प्रभावों का मूल्यांकन करना समयपूर्व होगा।

**Creation of 40,000 new posts in Central Government Offices**

2677. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has created as many as 40,000 new posts over the last one year despite the fact that a number of departments like DGTD, CCIF, etc. have become redundant and Government's promise made in the last year's budget speech that the Government departments would be rationalised to form the size and expenditure; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Over the last one year the estimated strength of Central Government employees (excluding Defence Service Personnel) has decreased by 24,883.

(b) Does **not arise.**

2678. [*Transferred to 18th March*, 1994]

**Steps for rapid export growth**

@2679. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Community has advised India that rapid export growth required continued flexible management of exchange rate and further decontrol of restrictions;

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@Previously Unstarred Question 1931, transferred from 7th March, 1994.

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereon; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to achieve rapid export growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) As a part of its strategy for balance of payment management and reform, since June 1991, the Government has initiated several measures aimed at rapid export growth. These include the introduction of Liberalised Exchange rate Management System (LERMS) in March 1992 and unification of the exchange rate in March 1993. In order to increase exports, the Government have taken major steps for liberalisation of trade which include promotion of export linked imports reduction in import licensing, removal of quantitative restrictions, strengthening of export incentives, removal of procedural irritants through simplification of policy and procedure and pruning of negative list of exports.

In the Budget for 1994-95 these measures have been further reinforced by introduction of convertibility of rupee on current account reduction in customs and excise duty and rationalisation of their structure etc. The World Bank had also observed in its Country Economic Memorandum (CEM) dated 24th May, 1993 that continued flexible exchange rate management and removal of restrictions would be in the interest of export growth.

**Import of Gold**

2680. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of gold brought into the country by NRIs since relaxations were announced on import of gold, year-wise figures;

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange earned by the country since then, year-wise figures;

(c) during this period, how much gold has been confiscated by customs and othter agencies, year-wise figures; what is the value of gold thus confiscated, year-wise;

(d) whether the smuggling of gold has come down or gone up since the scheme has been introduced by Government; and

(e) whether any review has taken place in the past or not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Since 1-8-1992 when the Gold Import Scheme for incoming passengers was introduced, the quantity of gold brought into India and the amount of customs duty realised in foreign exchange is as under:—

| Year | Quantity | Duty |
|---|---|---|
| March, 1992 | 123 Kgs. | Rs. 55 lakhs |
| April, 1992 to March, 1993 | 13334) Kgs. | Rs. 238.72 crores |
| April, 1993 to February, 1994 | 96250 Kgs. | Rs. 211.91 crores |